



## Tsunami disaster isn't 'natural' Imperialism causes death and destruction



*When people live in squalid conditions, they are at risk from disasters -- but the doesn't make their deaths 'natural.'*

*Children in the Philippines living their 'normal' life, documented in a MIM photo.*

**by MIM**

The more than 150,000 deaths from the earthquake and tsunami in South Asia are an almost unfathomable disaster, especially for those in the First World who have never seen destruction of this scale. Even the U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said that the destruction he saw in South Asia last week was far worse than what he had seen at war. Still many people in Amerika offered financial donations for relief to the devastated region. MIM applauds these acts of selflessness by Americans not generally concerned with people outside of U.S. borders. It is this kind of internationalist sentiment that we work to foster.

But at the same time we have to ask why people don't similarly offer aid to people fighting the repression of a military dictatorship, or deadly attacks from imperialist armies, or economic devastation from IMF and World Bank austerity measures. All of these are disasters for Third World people, literally killing them. The major difference is the

apparent non-political nature of the tsunami deaths, and of course the American government's support for aid to the victims. But the deaths from this tsunami were not from a "natural" disaster, any more than the American military's "accidental" bombing of a civilian house in Iraq today (January 8) was a "natural" disaster.

As MIM wrote in our theory journal on Revolutionary Environmentalism: "Another phenomenon which is often not recognized as preventable is 'natural' disasters, such as floods, volcano eruptions, and earthquakes. Sure, these are 'natural,' but why are they disasters? The answer in many cases is that the majority of the world does not have the resources to deal effectively with nature's surprises. Many communities cannot be warned to evacuate when necessary, because they do not have television sets or radios. Once such communities are destroyed by natural events, the neocolonies' poverty prevents the reconstruction of the infrastructure -

if there was an infrastructure to speak of in the first place."(4)

In South Asia many of the tsunami deaths could have been prevented with an early warning system similar to the one set up in Hawaii to warn the wealthy Pacific Ocean areas of potential tsunamis. A proposal to set up such a warning system was dismissed for lack of funding in the South Asian region.

A system that forces hundreds of thousands of people to live illegally in shacks on the beach because they can not afford housing even though they work long hours every day caused even more deaths. The many fisherpeople and their families killed by the tsunami lived in these conditions while the wealthy in their countries enjoyed fresh fish and comfortable living on higher ground. In South Asia, American economic and military support that props up corrupt governments which keep the wealth for themselves and their American partners.

Indonesia is a prime example of this. The brutal military dictatorship in that country has enjoyed imperialist aid and support, particularly from the United States which in turn looks to Indonesia for cheap labor for its imperialist corporations. Indonesia massacred more than a third of the East Timorese population in its years long attempt to put down East Timor's independence struggle. In Aceh province, one of the

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***Fight censorship  
of the Internet!***

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After signing up for an account with Hard Hat Hosting (hardhathosting.com) RAIL soon lost access to the server and later received the message below from Hard Hat CEO Eric Linberg. We reprint this message for two reasons. First, Hard Hat states in their Acceptable Use Policy that they will not allow content that harms their reputation or good will. If they hope to maintain their reputation as web hosting service then the public should know that despite their claims to the contrary, they do not respect the rights of freedom of expression of opinions and political views. Every web hosting company in the world could tell us that they respect our right to free speech, but if no one will host a site that lists the deaths caused by imperialism then that information is being censored from the public.

At this point in history there are various web hosts that will serve various types of controversial material. People who try to combat the bourgeois idea of intellectual property face the greatest resistance from website hosters who have little recourse but to respect bourgeois property rights to stay in business. While anti-copyright materials pose an immediate threat to capitalist profits, political speech is given more leeway until it becomes a real threat. So when push comes to shove and there's a warrant from an intelligence agency of the bourgeois state, then all of sudden your servers and all the data on them are gone. (1) And when activists take the independent route of hosting their own space on the web then they become easier targets. When the feds come to take the server they're coming to your house and taking you with them. (2)

The second and more important point we want to make is that this is bigger than Hard Hat Hosting. The fact is that the oppressed and exploited do not have freedom of speech in the system that exploits and oppresses them. Even as amerikans are losing their majority control

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# Letters

## Letter from Maoist student in China

Comrades of MIM:

Nice to meet you!

I am a real Maoist from X university, Y city, People's Republic of China. I am not a member of the CPC, because I don't think it is a real communist party.

I do not like today's China of capital.

Your words look like a light in the night for me, you see, I have no chance to know some real history of China.

I will keep in touch with your organization. I wanna know what can I do for works of MIM.

Sorry for my poor English.

Long Live MIM! Long Live the Revolution! Long Live the Peoples' Wars of the Third World!

--A Chinese Maoist

## Alleged Halliburton employee writes to MIM: "Freedom" misused again

**mim3@mim.org comments:** We received a letter from someone alleging to work for Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), a subsidiary of the contractor company called Halliburton, of Vice-President Dick Cheney fame.

He appeared to be responding to our article on Thomas Hamill in which we said: "Last September the 43-year-old

volunteer firefighter signed on to drive a fuel truck for a year in Iraq for up to \$120,000, tax free,' according to CNN. Hamill was working for a sub-contractor for Halliburton.

"The sad part is that Thomas Hamill is a microcosm of Amerika. Whether any philistines know it or not, Amerikan jobs and salaries depend on the global web of exploitation created by the monster of U.S. imperialism concretely manifested in multinational corporations like Halliburton. Amerikans are generally enemies of the Iraqi people unless they prove otherwise in action. As a truck-driver in Iraq, Hamill was making more (than ten times more(2)—mim3, ed.) money than 90% of the people in the world, because all Amerikans with legal working rights have an extra access to the means of production globally thanks to imperialism.

"Others working and missing in Iraq include seven employees of American contractor Kellogg, Brown & Root. The plan of the Bush administration had been to have thousands of u.\$ employees in Iraq carrying out billions of dollars worth of contracts.

"Communists! It's time to break with your phony communist organizations and work with the only organization with a line practically opposing all aspects of the war on Iraq. Anybody oozing any sympathy for the Amerikan contractors is simply oozing sympathy for imperialism. Rather than echoing the Bush administration on the 'barbarians' in Iraq, communists should take sides with the Iraqi people."(1)

### Alleged KBR employee:

That is as weak a statement as I have ever heard. It must be nice to have the freedom of speech to put people down that are defending our Country. I myself am a contractor working for KBR. I happened to be on the same route as Thomas Hamill that very day. It takes a pretty weak minded person to think that contractors are over in Iraq for any other reason except to help the Iraqi people. We are here to support the military, in order to restore freedom of the Iraqi's. We put our asses on the line, day in and day out. Until you have the same fortitude to do the same, maybe you ought to keep your pie hole shut!!

### mim3@mim.org replies:

So, how much did you make in Iraq compared with what it would be at home/ USA?

If you want to help Iraq, why not send some money and let Iraqis drive their own trucks and build their own infrastructure?

If you are for "free speech" then why are you helping a plan that has resulted in the shutting of newspapers and killing of demonstrators seeking to open them? "Two months after 'liberating' Iraq, the Anglo-US authorities have decided to control the new, free press." [www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/bushvshussein.html>

### Halliburton employee responds:

As for the money that I made over here verses the money that I made at home, the only difference is that it is tax free. I'm not here solely for the money. I am here to support the military, as well as my country. These Iraqi people need a lot more than money. They need some deep support. The military is trying to put

them in a position to stand up on there own. You need to understand that these people have been deeply suppressed for thousands of years. George Bush didn't send these TROOPS in here just for war. He got rid of one of the most powerful dictators of all time. It's about FREEDOM brother. Everybody in this world should be able to enjoy FREEDOM. That is the main reason that we are over here. These people need to be free. We pay a deep price in doing this for other countries. But as Americans, and the rest of the Coalition Forces, that is the price that we are willing to pay. Don't knock the Contractor for trying to help this cause. Sure alot of us better our financial position in life by working over here. The world will be a better place through finding the better source of a people.

### mim3@mim.org replies for MIM:

If you are concerned about freedom, get the Amerikans at KBR to go back home and work on politics there, because the United States leads the world in imprisonment per capita. Get the Brits to go back to England, because the imprisonment rate is the highest in Europe there.

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/freecoun.html>

And if you think someone in Iraq would have been better than Hussein, learn how the united States assisted him to power including how Rumsfeld brought him biological weapons.

<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/bushvshussein.html>

To have the right to boast about freedom, you have to earn it. When the united States shows the world how to do with the least imprisonment, then it

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*Production by MC12*

## MIM Notes

The Official Newsletter of The Maoist Internationalist Movement  
ISSN 1540-8817

*MIM Notes* is the bi-weekly newsletter of the Maoist Internationalist Movement. MIM Notes is the official Party voice; more complete statements are published in our journal, *MIM Theory*. Material in *MIM Notes* is the Party's position unless noted. *MIM Notes* accepts submissions and critiques from anyone. The editors reserve the right to edit submissions unless permission is specifically denied by the author; submissions are published anonymously unless authors insist on identification (prisoners are never identified by name). MIM is an underground party that does not publish the names of its comrades in order to avoid the state surveillance and repression that have historically been directed at communist parties and anti-imperialist movements. MCs, MIM comrades, are members of the Party. The Revolutionary Anti-Imperialist League (RAIL) is an anti-imperialist mass organization led by MIM (RCs are RAIL Comrades). MIM's ten-point program is available to anyone who sends in a SASE.

The paper is free to all prisoners, as long as they write to us every 90 days to confirm their subscriptions. There are no individual subscriptions for people outside prison.

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## What is MIM?

The Maoist Internationalist Movement (MIM) is the collection of existing or emerging Maoist internationalist parties in the English-speaking imperialist countries and their English-speaking internal semi-colonies, as well as the existing or emerging Maoist Internationalist parties in Belgium, France and Quebec and the existing or emerging Spanish-speaking Maoist Internationalist parties of Aztlan, Puerto Rico and other territories of the U.S. Empire. MIM Notes is the newspaper of MIM. *Notas Rojas* is the newspaper of the Spanish-speaking parties or emerging parties of MIM. MIM upholds the revolutionary communist ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Maoism and is an internationalist organization that works from the vantage point of the Third World proletariat. MIM struggles to end the oppression of all groups over other groups: classes, genders, nations. MIM knows this is only possibly by building public opinion to seize power through armed struggle. Revolution is a reality for North America as the military becomes over-extended in the government's attempts to maintain world hegemony. MIM differs from other communist parties on three main questions: (1) MIM holds that after the proletariat seizes power in socialist revolution, the potential exists for capitalist restoration under the leadership of a new bourgeoisie within the communist party itself. In the case of the USSR, the bourgeoisie seized power after the death of Stalin in 1953; in China, it was after Mao's death and the overthrow of the "Gang of Four" in 1976. (2) MIM upholds the Chinese Cultural Revolution as the farthest advance of communism in humyn history. (3) As Marx, Engels and Lenin formulated and MIM has reiterated through materialist analysis, imperialism extracts super-profits from the Third World and in part uses this wealth to buy off whole populations of oppressor nation so-called workers. These so-called workers bought off by imperialism form a new petty-bourgeoisie called the labor aristocracy. These classes are not the principal vehicles to advance Maoism within those countries because their standards of living depend on imperialism. At this time, imperialist super-profits create this situation in the Canada, Quebec, the United States, England, France, Belgium, Germany, Japan, Italy, Switzerland, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Israel, Sweden and Denmark. MIM accepts people as members who agree on these basic principles and accept democratic centralism, the system of majority rule, on other questions of party line.

*"The theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin is universally applicable. We should regard it not as dogma, but as a guide to action. Studying it is not merely a matter of learning terms and phrases, but of learning Marxism-Leninism as the science of revolution."*

- Mao Zedong, Selected Works, Vol. II, p. 208.

## *U.S. military relief operations in Asia far worse than the tsunami*

by the ILPS-Philippines Chapter  
January 11, 2005

The International League of People's Struggle (ILPS) Philippines Chapter condemns the U.S. for making political capital out of the catastrophic tsunami which engulfed a wide swath of Asia, including some parts of Africa, and killed 160,000 people.

The ILPS Philippines Chapter denounces the crass opportunism expressed by U.S. State Secretary Colin Powell when he said that the U.S. military relief and aid that it is giving Aceh "should change the battered image of the United States around the globe after the its

arrogant disregard of international public opinion against the invasion of Iraq. He likewise boasted that this aid is a manifestation of U.S. "generosity" and "American values in action."

Instead of sending skilled civilians, the United States seized the opportunity to send an array of U.S. warships, planes, helicopters, and more than 13,000 U.S. military personnel purportedly to help Indonesia, Thailand, and Sri Lanka, countries most affected by the December 26 disaster. The USS Abraham Lincoln, an aircraft carrier with 6,000 sailors on board, is currently stationed about 28 kms or 15 nautical miles off Aceh while a fleet of Sea Hawk helicopters from same

carrier has been flying food, water, and medical supplies in said region where there is an armed rebellion against the Indonesian government. One thousand and five hundred U.S. troops, meanwhile, are deployed in Sri Lanka where there is also an armed rebellion waged by the Tamil Tigers which is fighting for self-determination.

U.S. forces are also using Thailand's Vietnam era air base of Utapao as an airlift hub for the so-called "humanitarian" mission, strengthening potential U.S. military logistical support through Southeast Asia. Conducting the largest operation in Asia since the Vietnam War, the U.S. military said that its forces could remain in the region for up to six months. Six months can always be extended of course until it becomes permanent.

It is well known that strengthening U.S. military presence in Southeast Asia is a

major element in the neoconservatives' imperialist project of Pax Americana in the 21st century that presupposes U.S. imperialism's unchallenged global hegemony. Given U.S. imperialism's proven record of economic plunder and destructive wars, the U.S. military deployment augurs a calamity far worse than the tsunami that devastated these Asian countries.

Source: <http://www.antiimperialista.com/view.shtml?category=9&id=1105612477>

## **RAIL CENSORED BY INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER**

of the Internet, it remains controlled by the wealthy of the world. There is no doubt that the higher levels of communication available with the development of the Internet will serve the struggle of the oppressed in the long-run. However, the supposed right to free speech for oppressed voices will only be guaranteed by our determined struggle and our creativity in the face of repression.

\* \* \*

Hello [x],

I'm sorry it took me so long to reply. After reviewing your existing site [imperialismkills.org](http://imperialismkills.org) I would respectfully choose not to host this domain or any material that might be considered controversial.

We totally respect your right to express your own opinions and political views, however we do not wish to take on the liability of hosting a site that could easily become a target of those that have opposing ideologies.

Please do not take this personally, there are many hosting companies that have lenient Acceptable Use Policies.

Our AUP can be reviewed at:

<http://hardhathosting.com/customer-service/terms-of-service.php#accept>

Here is an excerpt that applies to the situation.

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Sincerely,

Eric Linberg, President Hardhat, Inc.

Notes:

1. The World Bank, [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
2. The Star online, Jan9, 2005
3. The New Statesman, Jan 6, 2005
4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/mt9.html>

## **Tsunami disaster isn't 'natural' Imperialism causes death and destruction**

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hardest hit areas, the notoriously brutal Indonesian army continued its persecution of rebels even in the wake of the death of so many people in the region. These armed patrols are deadly to the population both directly, and as a potential problem for aid delivery.

The mainstream media likes to talk about the "indiscriminate" destruction of the tsunami. But it is not indiscriminate that the vast majority of those who died lived their lives in poverty. The few thousand deaths of resort visitors were a tiny portion of the total, and were at least matched by the deaths of resort workers. While CNN highlights the affect of the tsunami on tourists and hotel operators in Phuket, the locals who live in poverty are brushed over with sweeping views of devastated coastland and images of aid delivery.

According to the World Bank, more than 95% of all deaths caused by disasters occur in developing (Third World) countries; and losses due to natural disasters are 20 times greater (as a percentage of GDP) in developing countries than in imperialist countries.(1) But redevelopment aid will focus on the recognized businesses, particularly tourism and larger businesses. Small businesses and illegal squatters can expect to be pushed off of land and out of work where wealthier people can step in to benefit.

Professor Sumner La Croix, senior fellow in economics at the Hawaii-based East-West Center, an imperialist economic mouthpiece, provides a good example of what we can expect from "rebuilding." The tsunami damage is confined to mostly rural areas and so, La Croix says: "Most rebuilding will replicate what was previously in place: vacationers want hotels by the beach; stores will be located near the beach to provide goods and services; and roads go through these towns"(2) There is no mention of

rebuilding for the people who lived on the coast and lost their homes and livelihoods.

Economists are predicting good economic performance by Thailand, Indonesia and India in spite of the disaster, again because the people affected were mostly not central to the economies of those countries. La Croix explains: "Despite the severe damage to Aceh's economic infrastructure, the republic's energy (mainly oil and natural gas) production facilities in Aceh and Northern Sumatra seem to have survived intact."(2) So once again La Croix is clear: the industries making money for those running the countries are important, while the livelihoods of the poor are relatively unimportant. Even where 80% of the population died, the economy will still be fine because the imperialists and their puppets did not lose the oil and natural gas production facilities.

John Pilger, a journalist writing for the New Statesman, explained the hypocrisy of the tsunami aid well: "The victims of a great natural disaster are worthy (though for how long is uncertain) while the victims of man-made imperial disasters are unworthy and very often unmentionable. Somehow, reporters cannot bring themselves to report what has been going on in Aceh, supported by 'our' government. This one-way moral mirror allows U.S. to ignore a trail of destruction and carnage that is another tsunami.

"Consider the plight of Afghanistan, where clean water is unknown and death in childbirth common. At the Labour Party conference in 2001, Tony Blair announced his famous crusade to 're-order the world' with the pledge: 'To the Afghan people, we make this commitment, we will not walk away... we will work with you to make sure [a way is found] out of the poverty that is your miserable existence.' The Blair government had just taken part in the

conquest of Afghanistan, in which as many as 20,000 civilians died. Of all the great humanitarian crises in living memory, no country suffered more and none has been helped less. Just three per cent of all international aid spent in Afghanistan has been for reconstruction, 84 per cent is for the US-led military 'coalition' and the rest are crumbs for emergency aid. What is often presented as reconstruction revenue is private investment, such as the 35m dollars that will finance a proposed five-star hotel, mostly for foreigners. An adviser to the minister of rural affairs in Kabul told me the government had received less than 20 per cent of the aid promised to Afghanistan. 'We don't even have enough money to pay wages, let alone plan reconstruction,' he said.

"The reason, unspoken of course, is that Afghans are the unworthiest of victims. When American helicopter gunships repeatedly machine gunned a remote farming village, killing as many as 93 civilians, a Pentagon official was moved to say, 'The people there are dead because we wanted them dead.'" (3)

MIM encourages people to take a look at the world around them and see that deadly disasters are created by imperialism around the world every day. RAIL keeps a running tally of some of these deaths on its Imperialism Kills page (<http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/rail/impkills.html>). These disasters need to be stopped, and no amount of relief aid will accomplish this. We must fight to overthrow this imperialist system and replace it with a system that serves the people rather than the wealthy.

Notes:

1. The World Bank, [www.worldbank.org](http://www.worldbank.org)
2. The Star online, Jan9, 2005
3. The New Statesman, Jan 6, 2005
4. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/mt/mt9.html>

he hosted. See [www.freesherman.org](http://www.freesherman.org)

# Imperialist population: 1 billion

by [mim3@mim.org](mailto:mim3@mim.org) and HC123  
January 13, 2005

A rough calculation of the population in the imperialist world in 2004 is 1025 million. That compares with a total world population of 6450 million.(1) The imperialist population is also smaller than the populations of either China or India.

The 1025 million of imperialism is the total of the populations of the following countries:

USA  
Russian Federation  
Kanada  
"United" KKKingdom  
Greece  
Ireland  
Iceland  
France  
Spain  
Portugal  
Italy  
Switzerland  
Austria  
Luxembourg  
Netherlands  
Belgium  
Denmark  
Norway  
Sweden  
Finland  
Germany  
I\$rael  
Japan  
Au\$tralia  
New Zealand

The list should also include various tiny countries such as Malta, Andorra, and Liechtenstein, but it does not make much difference to include those. They wouldn't affect the figures very much anyway.

Some of the smaller countries on the above list are also questionable as imperialists for not having multinational corporate monopolies and the finance stage of capitalism. Some such as New Zealand may be extensions or enclaves set up by other imperialists. They seem to be allowed the privileges of imperialism without having their own national reduplication of all imperialist institutions. The situation in Greece is also not straightforward.

We do not regard the various little Middle Eastern kingdoms as imperialist, because they're merely selling off resources (oil) and not exporting capital under the dominance of domestic finance capital as Lenin said was true of imperialism. On the other hand, many of the populations in these Arab oil countries are bourgeoisified.

Eventually they'll meet the fate of Nauru, which has tapped out its phosphate reserves and cannot produce food or much of anything else. These kingdoms do, however, exploit foreign workers and, in the case of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), even a part of the indigenous population (some people born in the UAE are denied citizenship because

of their origins and are therefore stateless).

For a first stab at the question, it would be quite accurate to consider the 1025 million to be the world's exploiters. The vast bulk of the world's exploiters are found in the countries listed above and we should not let nit-pickers distort that basic truth for the benefit of an imperialist chauvinist agenda.

Of the countries above, Russia with its 140 million people is the one that has a definite majority of exploited people. Hence, we might be off 100 million people in making that generalization just by lumping in Russia. In addition there are those who are in the imperialist countries illegally by imperialist law and thus do not enjoy the wage conditions for the normal exploiter-citizen.

On the other side of the ledger, where we have missed 100 million exploiters is the 2% of the 5 billion in the Third World that serves as imperialist-lackey-exploiters. There are also the non-imperialist Arab exploiters.

When we consider the additions and deductions from the ledger, the point remains that 1 billion exploiters remains a very good approximation of the global enemy class. Even if we made a mistake and included 10% of the Third World as exploiters, we would only have 1.5 billion exploiters against 5 billion exploited people instead of 1 billion versus 5.5 billion. Such an adjustment shows that no matter what the vast majority of exploiters come from the imperialist countries.

Many are familiar with the kind of access to the means of production which produces a situation where the income of "150 million Latin Americans—that is, around 33 percent of the population—is under \$2 a day."(2) However, this focus on the bottom can also distort the global picture.

If we count the top 10% of the Third World as all exploiters, we will be including some poor people. For example, in oil-rich former Soviet republic Azerbaijan, to get into the top 10% of the population income-wise, one needs \$72 per month.(3) That's not to say there are not some very rich people in Azerbaijan, only that the top 10% does not include all very rich people. In many countries there

are 1 or 2 or 3% working for corporations as professionals making good money. Finding good paying jobs and businesses to aid even 10% of the population of a country proves to be difficult in this imperialist-dominated world.

What is missing from most people's picture is actually the top 10%—the people with access to the means of production that guarantees them income in the top 10% of the world. According to United Nations statistics made available by the The Economic Commission for Latin America (ECLA), the imperialist countries excluding Russia in 1999 supplied 85% of the people in the top 10% of the world by income.(4)

What is more, if we take a minimum wage earner in the united States working 2000 hours a year, that persyn would be in the top 10% of most countries in the world. That would be true in Africa, Asia and the ex-Soviet Union. The only region in the world where the Amerikan minimum wage earner would not be in the top 10% is Latin America, and even there, the entry into the top 10% averaged under \$13,000 a year in 1999.(4)

Less than 9% of the imperialist country populations in 1999 were not in the top 20% of the world by income—the kind of people MIM has emphasized are lumpen and abused non-citizens. In fact, someone who makes it into the bottom 11 percentile (89th percentile) of the imperialist countries is higher than the 10th percentile of Africa and Asia by income. When MIM follows Lenin saying that imperialist countries are bought off in their entirety, we stand on the facts. Without exception, the organizations opposing the MIM line are chauvinist scum hiding the warped economic situation created by imperialism.

Our critics including all the so-called Marxist organizations in the imperialist countries except the handful affiliated/friendly with MIM say that the 90% of the imperialist countries' population is exploited. Let's be clear what these running dogs of the exploiters mean: It's not just that they are letting off the hook the 46% of the imperialist country population in the world's top 10% but not in the imperialist country top 10%. They are letting off the hook 69.6% of the world's top 10%.

The Third World languishes under the weight of a heavy load of imperialist parasites, almost 30% of which come from the United States. It will be interesting to watch the demographics in coming years. Most European countries, including the non-imperialist ones, will decline in population in the coming decades. So will Japan. The United States, however, will continue to grow, largely from immigration, to surpass 400 million by 2050. Excluding Russia and using the UN's projections for 2050, there will be a total of 978.3 million in the aforementioned countries. That represents a decline in the relative imperialist population, from 13.7% of the world today to 11.0% forty-five years hence. On the other hand, the United States will be a larger fraction of the imperialist world excluding Russia, going from 33.9% in 2004 to 41.8% of the imperialist population in 2050.

This is also important for understanding the future of the dynamics of exploitation. To say that the Third World has 10% exploiters is to equate their economic condition with that of the imperialists—a mistake made by the vast majority of organizations calling themselves "Marxist" in the imperialist countries. Some are still stuck in 1848 and others of these organizations are conscious exploiter representatives.

Notes:

1. Source for data: <http://esa.un.org/unpp/>
2. [http://www.iadb.org/res/publications/pubfiles/pubB-1998-1999\\_6453.pdf](http://www.iadb.org/res/publications/pubfiles/pubB-1998-1999_6453.pdf)
3. [http://www.azstat.org/statinfo/budget\\_households/en/013.shtml](http://www.azstat.org/statinfo/budget_households/en/013.shtml)
4. <http://www.eclac.cl/povertystatistics/documentos/dikhanov.pdf>

## Letters

*Continued from page 3...*

deserves some attention. Failing that, don't be surprised that people question your real motivations.

**Postscript:** This again is an example why it's important to fight phony Marxism. The imperialists are happy to use "workers" such as this one and Thomas Hamill in a propaganda game to influence public opinion in the united States. In the furor over the hostage-taking of a contractor, our phony Marxists were silent or at best inconsistent. Only the MIM line has accurately identified these people as parasites and enemies of the Iraqi people. Only the MIM line has a consistent basis for telling the contractors that they are not innocent construction workers, so they should get their a\*es back home.

Notes:

1. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/iraq/thomashamill.html>
2. <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/faq/imperialistpopulation.html>



# Notes on the term “Maoism”

by [mim3@mim.org](mailto:mim3@mim.org)

Our name established in 1984 is the “Maoist Internationalist Movement,” but the first word has a long history, behind it, so long, that the choice of one word concentrates a huge political struggle, the most important one of our times in the international communist movement. [This work is incomplete, so you can help out if you want by sending in your analysis and historical references.]

In August 1948, while preparing his speech for the opening ceremony of North China University, Comrade Wu Yuzhang decided to use “Maoism” [Mao2 Ze2dong1 zhu3yi4] instead of “Mao Zedong Thought” [Mao2 Ze2dong1 si1xiang3] and to proclaim that “studying Maoism is of primary importance.” He sent Comrade Mao Zedong a telegram to ask for his advice. In reply, Comrade Mao Zedong wrote: “That sort of phrasing is quite inappropriate. There is no such thing as Maoism. Don’t say ‘studying Maoism is of primary importance.’ You must rather urge the students to study the theory of Marx, Engels, Lenin, and Stalin as well as the experience of the Chinese revolution. Here ‘the experience of the Chinese revolution’ includes the various little booklets written by Chinese communists (Mao Zedong among them) and the documents of all the lines and policies established by the Party Central Committee.”

In 1955, at a nationwide conference of intellectuals, some comrades again suggested changing “Mao Zedong Thought” to “Maoism.” Comrade Mao Zedong did not approve of this suggestion. He said: “Marxism-Leninism is the trunk of the tree; I am just a twig.” (<http://www.huaxia.com/20031222/00159588.html>)

This sort of statement and the continued use of the phrase “Marxism-Leninism” for a historical period has caused much confusion in our own ranks—especially now in 2005 when people go back and quote from Chinese history selectively and not by looking at the whole history.

In 1955, the Soviet leader Khrushchev had not yet publicly denounced Stalin, who died in 1953. Thus to say that there is a “Maoism” in 1955 would hinge that notion on Mao’s contributions to the theory of People’s War. Some would say that Mao’s idea of “new democracy” was also a development of Marxism-Leninism, but MIM has held the position that that particular idea fell well within the range of previous statements by Lenin. What is more, the Soviet Union had also had extensive military experience in World War II, which probably deserved synthesis as well. Hence, there is a good

case for saying as Mao did that up till 1956, there was no “Maoism” yet.

It’s important to understand that the center of gravity in the world communist movement’s split between revisionism and scientific communism comes down around 1955. By this I mean that the revisionists in China continue to quote from the 1950s before Mao developed the struggle against revisionism through polemics with the Soviet Union and the Cultural Revolution. In India as well, there has been division along these lines, where some continue to uphold the Liu Shaoqi line and oppose as “Lin Biaoism” the elevation of Maoism as the next and higher stage of Marxism-Leninism. This is all tied together in the battle against Chinese revisionism, so it’s important to reject the Chinese revisionists’ claims that the “Golden Age” was Mao’s leadership before the Great Leap (1958-1960).

While these issues cause historical debate and organizational splitting in India, of course in the majority-exploiter countries the subject has a treatment closer to farce. We have one joker now calling himself a “great Maoist leader” who before jumping on the bandwagon and calling himself “Maoist” in 1993 claimed simultaneously to oppose Kim’s revisionism in Korea and Castro’s in Cuba while criticizing the Lin Biaoists who in the 1960s were the ones to make official a basis for opposing Korean and Cuban revisionism. However, that is getting ahead of the story.

The reason there is “Maoism” today is a new problem not faced by Lenin. To be sure, Lenin had learned of cases where reactionaries defeat revolutions as in the Paris Commune or Hungary. Lenin even mentioned the creation of a “new bourgeoisie” in the government of socialism. The idea that imperialists could attack from the outside or that a civil war could go one way or another was not new to Lenin and hence anything along these lines probably cannot serve as a claim for the existence of Maoism as the third and superior stage of Marxism-Leninism. Khrushchev changed all that.

In Khrushchev’s restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union, we have a case where there was no civil war apparent and no imperialist invasion. In fact, Stalin had held power in relative stability for about 30 years.

The response of the international communist movement divided into three parts: 1) denial and thus revisionism; 2) ineptitude; 3) development.

Those in camp one are now finally on the defensive, because Gorbachev made it obvious that capitalist restoration is possible by the leaders of the party itself. It is only the totally brain-dead still hoping that Russia is a “deformed workers’ state” in 2005 or that Gorbachev was a real communist. Mao was right: it could happen without civil war or outside invasion and the important thing to understand is that this statement separates

him from the vast majority of other leaders in the communist movement at the time and this is another reason we must now elevate Maoism as the third and superior stage of Marxism-Leninism, as a matter of our scientific responsibility today.

In the second camp we have the inept ranging from Castro and Kim to Hoxha. Hoxha was the least inept in this camp while Castro and Kim made considerably more compromises with the revisionist camp. Even so, Castro flip-flopped and stated he noticed something had changed with Gorbachev as did Kim Jong Il. They were rather late, but their followers were not totally brain-dead, just 90%. The best in the lot, Hoxha realized that Khrushchev had changed something and he knew it was a departure from Marxism-Leninism. What was not so good was Hoxha’s explanation for how it happened.

Stalin had told us that parties in power have enemies inside. Trotskys arise. The imperialists bribe various party members. Yet, here was Khrushchev, the very leader of the Soviet Union who restored capitalism. The question arises whether the old approach to this question was adequate. Hoxha answered “yes,” Mao “no.”

So, we should not laugh, but Hoxha claimed there was an appropriate Stalin line without the benefit of hindsight that Mao had to handle this question. We are supposed to picture that the KGB should have handled Khrushchev, not to mention Gorbachev. We should treat Khrushchev as just another Amerikan-bribed infiltrator according to non-Maoists who noticed something wrong with Khrushchev.

For Maoists this is no where near adequate. How should we picture this? First the KGB sends teams of investigators to find out how much the Americans bribed Khrushchev. Next they arrange to bribe him back to the Soviet side and serve as a double agent? Perhaps the KGB should arrest the leader of the party? We’re quite sure that Stalin agreed with Mao that the party must command the gun, and he said so when he rejected a particular military commendation because it implied that the leader of the party was not already the leader of the Soviet military. So to leave it to the KGB, this would be a precedent fraught with difficulty at a wider political level, not to mention continuous and shady coups. This is another reason Mao found the whole Lin Biao disaster so distressing. If Stalin himself could not leave leaders in place to prevent capitalist restoration, then why do we think a subdepartment of the KGB is going to arrest Khrushchev (and even if succeeding in that) and then prevent capitalist restoration themselves? As Molotov himself said, “we purged and purged” and still “it’s complicated.” Obviously, genuine communists faced with this situation needed more help from the masses and that is why there needed to be a Cultural Revolution.

No, preventing revisionist leadership is not something for the KGB/NKVD alone. This is something where we have to ask how the party put itself in this position and find the roots of Khrushchev’s support. Mao was the only one to do this and that is the real reason we have to name Maoism as the third and superior stage of Marxism-Leninism.

When we picture the KGB bribing

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## Supreme Court to review prison Control Unit classification

December 10, 2004 — The Supreme Court agreed to take up the case of classifying prisoners into super maximum-security prisons, looking specifically at how prisoners are classified into these prisons. Most states have the prisons, that go by many names, including Supermax and Control Units. MIM has been fighting to shut down prison Control Units for years.

Control units may vary from prison to prison but they can be generally characterized as: Permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. Prisoners are usually placed in control units as an administrative measure, with no clear rules governing the moves.

The Supreme Court will review an appeal from the Ohio supermax where prisoners are on 23-hour-a-day lockdown in 90-square foot cells. This appeal follows the 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals decision on a class-action lawsuit against the state arguing that prisoners were not given a chance to fight the classification into the supermax. The Appeals court ruled that prisoners in the Ohio are entitled to hearings, with witnesses, before being classified into the supermax.

This is a case well worth watching. As the AP reported: “The case forces the Supreme Court to revisit a 1995 decision that limited prisoners’ rights to have hearings before they lose privileges or are disciplined for misconduct. Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist wrote in that opinion that inmate liberty interests are ‘limited to freedom from restraint which ... imposes atypical and significant hardship on the inmate in relation to the ordinary incidents of prison life.’”

The case is *Wilkinson v. Austin*, 04-495.

Notes: <http://www.fresnobee.com/24hour/nation/story/1913642p-9863049c.html>

# Notes on the term “Maoism”

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Khrushchev sufficiently to stay on the Soviet side, we come closer to understanding the problem. Even on bourgeois terms, narrow-minded and imperfect leaders of powerful countries do not hanker for a condo in Miami, especially not so much that they would give up the prestige of their own independence. Leaders of powerful countries can usually arrange their own privileges if they have a mind to being corrupt, so they would not need Amerikan bribes.

One could respond that Khrushchev was the kind of joker who just revelled in widespread corruption without any particular rationale. Then the question becomes why he would have support. How did he get to be party leader? Certainly others had to know this and now we are talking about a more widespread problem. Furthermore, even if Amerikans bribed Khrushchev to restore profit to command in the Soviet economy, it would not explain why others actually carried out his economic plans.

Today when there is a general bourgeois ethos in Russia, if someone wants to say that the whole Gorbachev, Yeltsin and Putin governments were just line items in the State Department, NSA and CIA budgets, we can imagine such a large operation. It is possible within Uncle Sam's budget for “intelligence.” The problem comes in saying that is what happened under Stalin with people like Khrushchev at his side ready to pounce for capitalism. Khrushchev could not denounce Stalin and change the direction of the economy without internal support. Hence we have to look for the material bases of the bourgeoisie in the party and stop living in denial that there was a bourgeoisie in the party, though it sounds unpleasant. The reality of capitalist restoration is what is really unpleasant, not science, not Mao the messenger.

When we try to place ourselves in the shoes of Chinese Marxists in the 1930s, we have some internal disagreement and uncertainty at MIM. One analysis holds that the May 4th movement succeeded in introducing the concept of “-ism” China-wide. Another analysis holds that in their position, the Chinese comrades going into the remote countryside and speaking with uneducated peasants might say the “thoughts of Buddha” or the “thoughts of Mao” to use a form of expression that there could be no question people would understand. Rather than getting to the absolute bottom of the origin of “Mao Zedong Thought,” we thought it important to publish on our web page what we do know.

Closely related to this question is Mao's statement in the 1930s that there is “no Marxism that is not concrete.” For Mao, there was no such thing as Marxism in the abstract. It either applied in conditions in China or did not exist at all in China. This had a lot to do with defeating Wang Ming and the Trotskyists who tried to say

that their connection to historical figures in Moscow or training there made their theories correct. Likewise, ten years ago, we had some jokers in Australia trying to say that their connection to supposedly prestigious Peruvians in New York City made them vanguard leaders. Other similar types say that signing a joint resolution with multiple countries' parties makes them right about concrete issues.

So Mao correctly fought a key battle against dogmatism; although by MIM standards, we would say such a battle was of life-and-death importance but still a lesser challenge than faced in the majority-exploiter countries where we have people calling exploiters “exploited.” Much as they were complete misleaders, even Wang Ming and the Chinese Trotskyists all pointed to people in China who were exploited, so the question of friends and enemies was not as botched in China as we have in Trotskyism or dogmatism in the majority-exploiter countries today. Whereas in China, failure to follow Mao led to an inept pursuit of the exploited's interests, in the majority-exploiter countries, the Trotskyists not on imperialist payroll do not even pursue the exploited's interests to begin with. They do not oppose exploitation, so it's important to understand that the question never goes to the strategic level in the majority-exploiter countries. It's a question of ideology and goals and the duty of the communists in the majority-exploiter countries is to shine the light on the enemy and keep the target in sight for the whole world.

According to one historian named Raymond F. Wylie, Mao's thought was not really on the map even among his eventually closest followers until 1938. At that time, Chen Boda and others started a persistent effort to have comrades study not just Marx, Lenin and Stalin but also Mao. Wang Ming also preserved centralism on that question. Contrary to the 28 Bolsheviks of similar mind as Wang Ming and the Trotskyists, the new party history also stressed the advances at meetings of January 1935, and not the role of returned students in January 1931 at the fourth plenum as previously taught in party history.

From the 1930s through the 1950s, it would not be wrong to consider Mao's thought to be just a part of Marxism-Leninism. With the Khrushchev restoration of capitalism came the basis for change and a more radical impulse developing Marxism-Leninism to a new stage.

Finally, at the 9th Party Congress of the Chinese Communist Party, Mao's comrades elevated Mao's importance relative to Marxism-Leninism. From that time onward, the genuine Maoists knew that the difference between Mao Zedong's Thought and “Maoism” was semantic. All that remained was implementation which faced resistance especially from Liu Shaoqi and Deng Xiaoping.

No longer was “Mao Zedong Thought” reserved to discussion of China's conditions. Newspaper articles appeared that said that revolutions in other countries “depended on Mao Zedong Thought.” Thus whatever the origins of the term, it was clear that practitioners regarded Mao Zedong Thought as a universal development of Marxism-Leninism. There could hardly be better proof than the restoration of capitalism in several countries.

Having advanced so far, it's not surprising that during or soon after the “9th Party Congress” the Maoists of China “blew it.” The unity of those who knew that revisionism had to be defeated by Maoism fell apart. After earning the main credit for elevating Mao's thought as the official line of the Chinese Communist Party, according to Raymond F. Wylie in addition to the 10th National Congress of the Communist Party of China documents, Chen Boda and Lin Biao actually proposed a report naming the principal contradiction within China as between the socialist system and backward forces of production, thus again paving the way for the “theory of productive forces” and Zhou Enlai's “Four Modernizations” that served as Deng's ideological backbone. Oddly enough, they did this while proposing further advances in economic organization, thus maintaining their “ultra-left” credentials. By MIM's standards, it seems that Chen Boda had become “erratic,” because it is hard to see how these ideas fit together with his other ideas. If this is true, and if reports by Lin's son are true, by 1969 Mao was

surrounded by leaders who simply wanted modernization of the productive forces and less internationalism—“China's rightful place in the world” as any respectable bourgeois would put it. Only the “Gang of Four” remained in opposition to the “theory of the productive forces.” At the 10th Party Congress, Zhou Enlai announced the dispatch of Chen Boda and Lin Biao and also condemned the theory of productive forces he himself was peddling inside the party. With the death of Mao and the arrest of the “Gang of Four,” Chen Boda and Lin Biao remained in disgrace and thus there were no erratic or consistent Maoists left to block the way and the bourgeoisie won the day. Deng Xiaoping came to power and told the world that he based himself on Zhou Enlai's programs for the productive forces.

In the above, the reason I cite Wylie and not just the 10th Party Congress documents alone is that if there are any areas to be further investigated they would be how the Maoist unity fell apart in 1969-1970 and what Zhou Enlai's role was—whether Deng Xiaoping misreported that in any way. That's another way of saying we are cross-checking the above paragraph from a number of angles, including bourgeois historians.

As we have said many times before, the truth is the truth no matter who says it. In this case, Lin Biao eventually staged a coup against Mao, but before that he blazed the trail and said on March 11, 1966: “Mao Tse-tung's thought reflects the objective laws of the domestic and

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## What is militarism?

Militarism is war-mongering or the advocacy of war or actual carrying out of war or its preparations.

While true pacifists condemn all violence as equally repugnant, we Maoists do not consider self-defense or the violence of oppressed nations against imperialism to be militarism. Militarism is mostly caused by imperialism at this time. Imperialism is the highest stage of capitalism—seen in countries like the United States, England and France.

Under capitalism, capitalists often profit from war or its preparations. Yet, it is the proletariat that does the dying in the wars. The proletariat wants a system in which people do not have self-interest on the side of war-profiteering or war for imperialism.

Militarism is one of the most important reasons to overthrow capitalism. It even infects oppressed nations and causes them to fight each other.

It is important not to let capitalists risk our lives in their ideas about war and peace or the environment. They have already had two world wars admitted by themselves in the last 100 years and they are conducting a third right now against the Third World.

Even a one percent annual chance of nuclear war destruction caused by capitalist aggressiveness or “greed” as the people call it should not be tolerated by the proletariat. After playing Russian Roulette (in which the bullet chamber is different each time and not related at all to the one that came up in previous spins) with 100 chambers and one bullet, the chance of survival is only 60.5% after 50 turns. In other words, a seemingly small one percent annual chance of world war means eventual doom. After 100 years or turns of Russian Roulette, the chances of survival are only 36.6%. After 200 years, survival has only a 13.4% chance.

# Kinsey is pro-science, if muddled

Kinsey, 2004

Bill Condon, director

Alfred Kinsey was a biologist who used the scientific methods he learned while studying insects to research sexual practices in mid-20th century America. Although this reviewer does not know enough to say that the survey methods and conclusions shown in this movie are accurate representations of the real-life Kinsey's work, I recommend "Kinsey" for promoting a scientific approach to sexuality. That is, if I want to know how people behave sexually, it's not good enough to listen to my preacher or extrapolate from my own experience or read the fiction in *Cosmo* or *Playboy*; I have to do more research, probably by asking people about their sex lives like Kinsey did.

"Kinsey" is to be commended for making this basic point—taking a scientific approach to human sexuality and society—in an entertaining manner. It's not a textbook on survey sampling, but then no movie should strive to be a textbook. Instead, movies should challenge the audience to question long-held incorrect or outright reactionary ideas. They should also promote a basic worldview or ideology. Of course MIM would prefer movies that promote proletarian ideology, but until we have our own films playing on more than 100 screens for over seven weeks we'll settle for "Kinsey" putting science ahead of clerical cant and old wives' tales.

On a substantive level, MIM agrees with several points raised in "Kinsey." For example, Kinsey begins a sex-ed lecture for college students saying that in a healthy society, most of what he was about to cover would be known to any

twelve-year old. Several characters—including Kinsey and his wife early in their marriage and another woman who attempts suicide—suffer unnecessarily because they did not know the basic mechanics of sex or think homosexuality is a sin. MIM's platform calls for mandatory sex education by age eleven to avoid exactly those problems.

"Kinsey" is not a perfect movie—in typical Hollywood fashion it spends too much time on Kinsey's personal life. The portrayals of Kinsey's early relationship with his father and later relationship with his son are little more than clichéd gossip.

More importantly, the movie does not clearly address the gendered power structure that continues to influence sexual relationships that have been "liberated" from clerical repression. There are hints throughout the movie that Kinsey hasn't grasped this point, for example when his assistants have a jealous row over a consensual affair. But the movie doesn't take a clear position; at most it criticizes Kinsey for ignoring the link between romantic love and sex. This may have been a conscious decision on the part of the filmmakers: in his time and place Kinsey may have been the best thing going; the principal enemy may have been the religious bigots and charlatans as opposed to the modern pornography industry that oppresses women under the banner of "liberating" sex; MacKinnon and MIM weren't around yet. Still, the movie was made for today's audience, and while its good pro-science anti-churchy mumbo jumbo line is sadly still relevant in America, we would have liked a sharper critique of the power relations underlying supposedly "free" sexual relationships.

## The romance culture with a paranormal twist: *White Noise*

"White Noise"  
Dir., Geoffrey Sax  
Universal, 2005

Reviewed by a contributor  
January 13, 2005

It is tempting to just write off "White Noise" as being yet more lubrication for the romance culture, as well as propaganda for religious thinking and paranormal research of questionable scientific value. The movie revolves around Jonathan Rivers's (Michael Keaton) grief over his deceased wife (Chandra West), who died under mysterious circumstances. Jonathan persistently tries to keep contact with her by way of electronic voice phenomena (EVP) and succeeds in communicating with her ghost through what sound and look like intelligible signals present in TV static. Jonathan does this to the point of seeming to neglect his son (Nicholas Elia) emotionally. Jonathan's behavior worries Nicholas; he wonders whether his father is going to be alright. After Anna's death, things fall apart for Jonathan family-wise, and his stress carries over to his work, but Jonathan's otherwise idyllic family life, intimate life and career are interrupted only by Anna's death.

Whether EVP is bogus or not is not the point here. What is interesting about "White Noise" is that full-spectrum radiation isn't the only thing that is white in this movie. "White Noise" goes out of

its way to depict bourgeois Euro-Americans probably making at least six figures. Jonathan is an architect with some managerial responsibilities. Anna Rivers is an internationally renowned, financially successful writer. None of this is necessary for the plot to work except that Jonathan is able to buy several LCD or plasma TVs, an LCD monitor, and audio studio software, to use for EVP monitoring. Jonathan suspects that EVP enthusiast Raymond Price (Ian McNeice) or an obsessed fan of Anna's may be stalking him, but Raymond is able to receive EVP messages from persons who aren't famous and seems to be interested in all those with whom he communicates through EVP. So, even Anna's being a famous writer is not needed for the plot to work, but "White Noise" still makes a point of depicting rich white people.

"White Noise" offers decadent parasites suggestions for new ways to spend their leisure time and provides them with more reasons to buy products. The MP3 player product placement was obvious in "Blade: Trinity" (2004), but in "White Noise," the hi-tech product placement is bound up with Jonathan's trying to deal with the death of a loved one. And why should Jonathan have all this EVP equipment, but not other people? Even if EVP were real, we could speak of inequality in the access to EVP

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## Maoism

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international class struggle; it reflects the fundamental interests of the proletariat, of the working people. Mao Tse-tung's thought has not grown spontaneously from among the working people; it is rather the result of Chairman Mao's inheriting and developing with great talent the ideas of Marxism-Leninism on the basis of great revolutionary practice. It has summed up the new experiences of the international communist movement and elevated Marxism-Leninism to a completely new stage." Similar remarks come from Lin in the little red book Quotations.

From that time onwards, genuine communists the world around treated Mao's thought as containing universal truth as officially sanctioned by the Communist Party of China. Whether it was called "Mao Zedong Thought" or "Maoism" the important thing was whether people treated it as something universally true, and not just Marxism-Leninism applied to China. In this regard

what Mao said about the Soviet Union was key.

Now we should say there is no "Marxism-Leninism-Maoism" that is not concrete. There is no "Marxism-Leninism-Maoism" that is not integrated with a country's conditions. Deng Xiaoping and Kim Il Sung did not want that, because they wanted the 1950s status quo of "Marxism-Leninism," which amounted to downplaying the struggle against capitalist restoration. Kim's Juche tends in a rather subjectivist-empiricist direction by not upholding anything universal at all and thus it can be hard to tell apart from Deng's line sometimes. If people use the term "Maoism" to mean Marxism-Leninism applied in Chinese conditions, then the term "Maoism" is as watered down as any other. So what is important is understanding the relationship between the universal and the particular and to give Maoism its proper universal accord.

At the 9th Congress of the Chinese

Communist Party, the only party in power mentioned by name as genuine Marxist-Leninist was the Albanian one. The congress openly condemned Brezhnev. This set Mao at odds with Castro, who had nothing to contribute to the struggle against the restoration of capitalism. Later, Kim succeeded in getting Mao's government in 1975 to name Kim as not departing from "Marxism-Leninism" without needing to carry out a struggle against the bourgeoisie in the party in Korea. That remains something of a puzzle to this day. If that line is correct it would only be because northern Korea is not really in the socialist stage, because of the reunification problem.

It is revisionists of various stripes trying to return the discussion of Mao to the 1950s status quo. It is a way of downplaying the struggle against Khrushchev revisionism, downplaying the Cultural Revolution and even denying the multiple capitalist restorations that have occurred just as Mao said. The

beneficiaries of such an approach are Khrushchev, Brezhnev, Gorbachev, Deng Xiaoping, Kim Jong Il, Ho Chi Minh and Castro.

*HC123 filed a research report for this article.*

Note: The leading dictionary of classical Chinese does not list zhu3yi4 ('-ism'). That means that it is almost certainly a recent term, not much older than the end of the nineteenth century. Another dictionary states that it commonly corresponds to English -ism as in socialism and individualism, which it lists with the corresponding Chinese words.

The word shugi (zhu3yi4 in Chinese) was created by Fukuchi Gen'ichiro (1841-1906) as a translation of the English word principle. It would have spread from Japan to China, as did she4hui4 'society' (also popularized by Fukuchi) and numerous other words.

So it's about a hundred years old, and it was devised to express a Western concept.

# Mental illness and millionaires' parasitism in *Aviator*

## "The Aviator" Dir., Martin Scorsese Miramax Films, 2004

Reviewed by a contributor January 2, 2005

[The *Aviator* has been nominated for 11 Academy Awards, including best picture, best director, and two acting awards. —ed.]

"The *Aviator*" focuses, in part, on what psychiatry would consider mental illness symptoms: Euro-American imperialist Howard Hughes' obsessive-compulsive behavior and paranoia. Today, at least a few million Americans are supposed to have obsessive-compulsive disorder. OCD patients' obsessions are often specific to a certain kind of object, or a certain kind of thought. The manifestation of OCD seems to vary with circumstances.

Mental illness diagnoses in general are often a response to behavior that either conflicts with, or concentrates, ideas and practices prevailing under the imperialist-patriarchy. What psychologists call "Pure-O," involving obsessive thinking only, is particularly interesting from the point of view of this approach. Some of what is called obsessive thinking could be viewed as excessive use of formal logic, and idealism. MIM has used a similar approach with other so-called mental illnesses. "In MIM's experience, it has been useful to address eating disorders

as an incorrect line on gender."<sup>(1)</sup>

MIM has dealt with a related theme in the context of the Chinese communists' practice of including politically-oriented group activities as a part of rehabilitation. "The manifestations of schizophrenia are social even if there is a chemical component or basis. The gross individualism and violence in Amerika may lead people diagnosed as schizophrenics to shoot up a McDonald's or worry about constant surveillance, while in a socialist society their behavior would manifest itself differently. Even before socialism, a revolutionary party can divert this energy to meaningful political work. The key is good politics."<sup>(1)</sup> In the same issue of MIM Theory. MIM discusses how revolutionary activity can effectively mitigate other mental illness symptoms, particularly depression symptoms. However, "good politics" is not just a rehabilitation technique. Rather, individuals must defeat their own mental illnesses so that they can even better participate in the revolutionary struggle. "We operate on the conviction that everyone [including the psychiatrically defined "retarded"], without exception, is capable of being incorporated into the revolutionary struggle."<sup>(1)</sup> This is the case even if mental illnesses represent a deterioration of urban parasites' mental abilities and require their children to take leadership in different ways.

Obsessive-compulsive symptoms are central to the personality of Howard Hughes in "The *Aviator*." Most movie

viewers will not go out and buy a Howard Hughes biography book after seeing "The *Aviator*," instead interpreting the movie as an example of a great American innovator and visionary, and taking the part-fiction biographical movie for what it is and leaving it at that, so I am not going to get into whether "The *Aviator*" accurately portrays Hughes. The movie ends with Hughes in the late 1940s, which leaves out some of the most controversial and disturbing aspects of Hughes' life in the first place. Exactly what kind of murderous, CIA-serving u.s. imperialist Hughes was is not that important. Suffice it to say that the pretense of a movie's being somehow inspired by reality is almost always a smokescreen for the movie's politics. Especially when the person in question has so little bearing on political practice, those reviewers who emphasize accuracy of portrayal are focused on artistic criteria, an approach to art criticism which smuggles reactionary ideology into listeners' readers' and viewers' minds.

The Hughes character (Leonardo DiCaprio) is frequently distressed with what he perceives to be uncleanness, and what he perceives to be imperfection of a technical sort, for example, his complaint about the protruding rivets on the body of an airplane. The obvious comparison is with "A Beautiful Mind" (2001) despite the main characters' different types of mental illness. The idea is that mental illness can coincide with, or even produce, genius, but may also be

its downfall. Despite the notion of the mad scientist, the idea of the mentally eccentric intellectual is typically reserved for artistic bohemians, so it is interesting to see these movies featuring the mental illnesses of Hughes and John Nash, who are more "scientific." Unfortunately, "The *Aviator*" does not ponder how every urban imperialist-country parasite, female or male, entertainer or scientist, is prone to "mental illness." Doing so might undermine the whole individualist approach to "mental illness" and expose social problems.

Instead, in "The *Aviator*," "mental illness" has the context of celebrity and success, as if the movie were trying to say: see, even the ruling class needs psychology and therapy, so you should want it, too. Like many other movies that depict seemingly mentally ill persons, "The *Aviator*" does nothing to disturb movie viewers' assumption of the need for psychology and therapy when there is a mentally ill character on-screen. To top it off, "The *Aviator*" tries to be stereotypically Freudian with all of "The *Aviator*"'s breast, milk and death wish references. So, Hughes's need for psychology seems to be just a matter of fact. This is particularly damaging in the context of professional psychology's rapid growth after World War II, which "The *Aviator*" completely ignores even though it focuses on mental illness.

At the same time that it expresses sympathy for "mentally ill" Hughes, "The

*Continued on next page...*

## The romance culture with a paranormal twist: *White Noise*

*Continued from previous page...*

equipment. Like many other movies featuring obviously wealthy Euro-American characters, "White Noise" takes their wealth, and the class structure, for granted and then proceeds to focus on their adventures with the romance culture. This reflects the reality of imperialist-country parasites' lives. Their lives are so empty that they have to look to the romance culture for ways to create meaning in their lives. Yet, this same culture benefits only gender oppressors, including the majority of adults in the Euro-American nation.

"White Noise" also adds to people's reasons to engage in serial killing: ghosts told me to do it. "White Noise" is similar to "Murder by Numbers" (2002), for example, in presenting new justifications for serial killing, but in "White Noise," there is simply no way to avoid the kind of serial killing depicted unless viewers think that it would be safer for women to not drive alone at night. In "White Noise," a woman is attacked while she is driving her car. [Spoiler warning] The implication at the end of the movie is that ghosts drove a working-class man construction worker (Mitchell Kosterman) to do it. The background of this is the romance culture, so the movie opposes the romance culture to serial killing and makes gender

oppressors look like victims of serial killers. Of course, this is nothing new; "Saw" (2004) does the same thing for example.<sup>(1)</sup>

What city "White Noise" is set in isn't clear. The movie is about serial killing, with a paranormal twist, in Anywhere, u.s.a. "White Noise" will contribute to movie viewers' fear of serial killers, but it is unlikely that the movie will actually decrease serial killing. So, what we have here is a movie that just encourages serial killing by presenting more rationalizations for it. At the same time, the movie reinforces the romance culture.

A psychic (Connor Tracy) warns Jonathan not to "meddle" with ghosts, who later put Jonathan's life at risk. EVP enthusiast movie viewers may take this as a warning to themselves, but this will have no impact on serial killers who think they are carrying out the will of ghosts—or God, like in "Frailty" (2001).

Other reviewers are giving "White Noise" a hard time, focusing almost exclusively on artistic criteria, so the question arises: is there anything good in this movie. The movie's portrayal of a u.s. white "worker" as a serial killer isn't going to score any points with some sections of the white labor aristocracy; although we have to point out that globally

and statistically, the American labor aristocracy is the leader in producing serial killers. So, the movie may disturb the American so-called workers' contentment, but the movie pits imperialists (Jonathan) against lesser parasites, which makes it more difficult to see the labor aristocracy's role in imperialist parasitism. "White Noise" doesn't get into who the worker is, or exactly what led up to the serial killings, but it would not be surprising if many movie viewers were uncomfortable with such a portrayal of what looks like stark difference within the u.s. white oppressor nation. Architect Jonathan lives in an upscale home; the white serial killer construction worker works out of what looks like an abandoned building, but can still afford to have all his own EVP equipment. Also, many viewers will perceive "White Noise" as "exploiting" their emotions about deceased loved ones, but their anger with the movie over this will just whip up their sentimentality for deceased family members.

"White Noise" does not deal with mental illness explicitly, but as with so-called mental illnesses and their "symptoms," we could ask if there is some social basis to the perception of EVP and other paranormal phenomena

as being real. Whether EVP is bogus or not (some viewers annoyed with "White Noise" claim that EVP is bogus and feel that the EVP premise insults their intelligence), EVPs may represent a longing for relationships with certain deceased people, for instance, relatives and spouses. In other words, "EVP" might originate inside the imperialist-patriarchy. This is especially clear when EVP coincides with certain kinds of electronic equipment that are not as accessible to exploited and oppressed people in the Third World. Jonathan devotes so much attention and resources to communicating with Anna's ghost. Raymond Price did the same with his dead son. The question "can we blame them" obscures the economic privileges that make EVP recording possible in the first place. In "White Noise," Jonathan first receives faint electronic signals from Anna's ghost through a cell phone, a stereo radio, and a car stereo. He moves on to using sleek video displays and computer equipment. What's next?

Notes:

1. "Imperialist-country parasites feel a little bit guilty after seeing: 'Saw,'" <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies/long/saw.html>

# Blade needs more clarity on who make up the masses

## “Blade: Trinity” Dir., David S. Goyer New Line, 2004

Reviewed by a contributor  
January 5, 2005

“Blade: Trinity” is the third movie in the “Blade” series, based on Marvel comic books. In “Blade: Trinity,” we find out that vampire hunter Abraham Whistler (Kris Kristofferson) has been working with other humyn vampire hunters in the united States for an unknown amount of time. These other vampire hunters are organized into geographically dispersed groups: “sleeper” cells. One of the Nightstalkers, Hannibal King (Ryan Reynolds), is a former vampire. Hannibal’s group rescues Blade (Wesley Snipes) after vampires capture Blade with the help of Familiars, who are capo-like, humyn lackeys of the vampires. Police chief and Familiar Martin Vreede reveals that the vampires have been operating a blood farming facility in each “major city” in the united States. The vampires keep comatose humyns in tightly sealed bags and suspend their bodies vertically in midair; they ‘drip’ blood. The vampires target homeless humyns of seemingly diverse nationalities.

In their review of “Blade” (1998), MC5 states that the militarily tactically superior vampire hunters have isolated themselves from the masses.(1) In fact, in “Blade: Trinity,” the tactically superior vampire hunters still have isolated themselves from the masses; there are just more of them. Now, there are vampire hunters called “Nightstalkers,” the most prominent of whom are Euro-Amerikan in “Blade: Trinity.” Blade is depicted as needing the Nightstalkers, but not as needing the masses.

Blade reluctantly works with the Nightstalkers and is still reluctant to do so even near the end of the movie, treating the Nightstalkers as annoyances and unnecessary baggage. “Blade: Trinity,” is correct to portray heroes as having limitations, but does not do enough to oppose the notion of the lonely revolutionary hero. At the end of the day, the trinity of Blade, and two Nightstalkers, Hannibal and Abigail Whistler (Jessica Biel), are three superheroes, and we are no further away from the previous two “Blade” movies’ orientation toward the masses. Interestingly, a blind scientist (Natasha Lyonne) is a member of the Nightstalkers, which suggests that disabled persyns are able to participate

in real-world struggle, but the movie doesn’t show any lumpen-proletarian as being part of the Nightstalkers. Yet, the vampires target lumpen-proletarians for their blood farms disproportionately and mainly.

There is a difference between the masses, and the population or even the majority of the population.(2) In the real world, the majority of Euro-Amerikans are not among the masses. With the “Blade” movies, the temptation is to say that the majority of Euro-Amerikans are among the masses since the vampires oppress them, too. But this depends on whether they really are in not only a stupor, but a self-defeating stupor. Certainly, in the “Blade” world, it seems that most Euro-Amerikans do not even believe that vampires exist. But do they have any reason to believe in them, is the question. Interestingly, “Blade: Trinity” depicts homeless persyns (whom nobody would miss, Chief Vreede explains) as suffering the brunt of the vampires’ systematic blood-harvesting efforts. In this context, the intensely targeted homeless persyns, including some white homeless persyns, have more reason to believe in vampires than the majority of white people. For them, it is a matter of

survival. For others not sleeping rough on the streets, it is more a matter of seeing stories about strange disappearances and serial killings on the news, on their TV sets, and dealing with feelings of unease.

To the extent that the movie actually has a concept of the masses, “Blade: Trinity” is confused about whom the masses in the “Blade” world consist of. “Blade: Trinity” depicts the Familiars as willingly using homeless persyns as lightning rods for the vampires’ thirst for blood. For example, the technician at the warehouse blood farm is a humyn who hesitates to shut down the blood production units after intimidating Blade instructs them to. This accurately reflects the orientation of real-world bourgeois workers, who (however irrationally) fear being re-proletarianized, toward exploited workers, but the movie implies that Blade is doing the whole humyn population a service by fighting the vampires. Supposedly, Blade kills humyn police officers, those who aren’t Familiars, for their own good. This probably reflects a lack of understanding by the movie makers that the majority of Euro-Amerikans aren’t among the masses in the real world. A lot of “Blade: Trinity” is

*Continued on page 12...*

## Aviator

*From previous page...*

“Aviator” makes use of Hughes’s fame in another way. “The Aviator” contains a lot of bullshit about a visionary Euro-Amerikan entrepreneur and innovator’s being victimized by corporate monopoly and government corruption. For example, “The Aviator” portrays Hughes as being unfairly targeted by the Senate War Investigating Committee. Less sinisterly, Noah Dietrich (John C. Reilly) repeatedly objects to Hughes’ spending his own money unwisely. In fact, it is true that capitalism and particularly highly parasitic imperialism are brakes on technical innovation and other technical change in several different ways. Social science researchers drawing from bourgeois ideology themselves recognize a certain disconnect between entrepreneurship and business management skills. The problem with “The Aviator” is that it glorifies Howard Hughes’s entrepreneurship and innovativeness as being a sign that he overcame his mental illness, without getting into the roles of entrepreneurship and innovation in the division of labor, and exploitation. That the united States imported much of its food, fuel and raw materials during World War II, from Mexico, for instance, is not going to cross most Amerikan movie viewers’ minds anyway, but “The Aviator” pretends that only u.\$ white men engineers and mechanics made the united States’ fleet of aircraft during World War II. The Hughes character himself goes as far as

saying that he, unlike Katharine Hepburn’s family, “works” for his money.

On the other hand, “The Aviator” suggests that mental eccentricity was a cause of Hughes’s perfectionism, so we may ask: what is so laudable about entrepreneurship or innovation in the first place if it were mental illness that created Hughes’s success? And didn’t Hughes have an advantage in being born into so much money? “The Aviator” also deserves some credit for pointing out, through the not-so-ditzy character of Katharine Hepburn, that the Euro-Amerikan bourgeoisie was too busy being anti-Communist and decadent to recognize the threat posed by Benito Mussolini—but the movie goes on to wrongly suggest that Franklin Roosevelt was some kind of vanguard in this respect. Still, “The Aviator” offers a useful example of how imperialist-country oppressors’ mental illnesses are portrayed in the movies.

As the author of “Disavowing suicide: Testimonial of a Woman Revolutionary” points out, “the most meaningful existence for members of parasitic Amerika is to work for communism to destroy [Amerikan imperialism].”(2) That’s working for communism, not working to innovate so that some imperialists can have better weapons, or so that some capitalists can have more profit. Engineering and science are useful, but not so important that there is no need to take responsibility for their use for exploitation and repression. Maybe this hardly needs pointing out since Hughes is a millionaire, but the same question arises for lesser parasites as well.

In fact, what the author of “Disavowing

suicide” is talking about applies to both millionaires and lesser parasites. Working for communism is the most meaningful thing imperialist-country parasites can do. It is the most meaningful thing anyone can do, who has enough leisure time and freedom to do it (while others, particularly in oppressed nations, are compelled to work for communism as a matter of survival). Yet, not everyone does it.

Even some millionaires that have alleged “OCD” feel the need to have congruency, evenness, or symmetry, in their own environments and possessions. Most people with such concerns do not care about oppression and are not disturbed with being parasites themselves. The recent review of “The Machinist” (2004) points out that there is a multifaceted contradiction between the powerfulness of parasitic privileges, on the one hand, and powerlessness to change the system at the lifestyle level. The specific kinds of things that OCD patients obsess about are often specific to certain societies.

Interestingly, “The Aviator” attributes Hughes’ obsession with cleanliness to his mother’s warnings about disease epidemics and her fear about “coloreds” under quarantine in the neighborhood, which implies that Hughes’ obsessive-compulsive behavior has a social basis: other persyns’ poverty, and some kind of socio-spatial stratification. That Hughes continues to distance himself from uncleanness even when there is clearly no longer any reason for him to do so, may be because he is so powerful and aspires to be even more powerful as an imperialist and gender oppressor, but can

never reach perfect powerfulness, so he somehow feels the need to create an illusion of control precisely where power to change the system is absent: at the level of lifestyle. He has to have so many peas on his plate, positioned in a certain way. Errol Flynn’s (Jude Law) helping himself to one of Hughes’ peas is like a disarming and devastating blow against Hughes. Hughes creates more order elsewhere, perhaps to regain a sense of being in control. Hughes dates different kinds of females: wimmin escorts, famous actresses, and a young teenage girl, Faith Domergue (Kelli Garner)—after the older Katharine Hepburn (Cate Blanchett) dumps him for not being attentive to her “needs.”

It is nice to know that the enemy can lose control through “mental illness,” but “The Aviator” depicts an imperialist as being mentally ill only to make parasitic movie viewers’ feel better about their own problems. This is why “The Aviator” is not embarrassing to them. They can add Hughes to the list of “famous OCD sufferers” or whatever, who, of course, would have benefited from psychology and therapy since “The Aviator” does not question the psychiatric and therapeutic culture. At the same time, they can reminisce about the life and times of a real-life Amerikkkan hero.

Check out MIM Theory no. 9: Psychology and Imperialism.

Notes:

1. MCB52, “Psychological Practice in The Chinese Revolution,” MIM Theory. no. 9 (1995): 37.

2. “Disavowing suicide: Testimonial of a Woman Revolutionary,” MIM Theory. no. 9 (1995): 45.

## Lifer's views on death

Being the recipient of a three strikes life sentence, a penalty just below death, I see capital punishment as yet another example of what's wrong with our justice system.

The debate has now shifted to whether Scott Peterson should die for his crimes. On its face, killing your pregnant wife is about as bad as it gets.

But ours is a flawed system.

In a capital crime, at best, if such can be said, a guilty killer voluntarily confessed without being coerced, tricked or tortured, removing any doubt about guilt. At worst, an innocent person is executed.

The phenomenon of actual innocence — a problem plaguing the American criminal justice system, and especially the death penalty — is generally caused by overzealous prosecutors and police, jailhouse informants who should never be trusted, and overly suggestive identification procedures conducted by bias law enforcement.

Since 1976, 111 people have been found factually innocent and liberated from the gallows after being found guilty — just like Scott Peterson. Those are the cases we know of.

I have a personal stake in this debate.

As a pro se litigant who's been fighting his three strikes life sentence for over a half a decade, I have more than a passing interest in capital crimes. One of San Quentin's most notorious death row prisoners, Richard Allen Davis, committed the 1993 murder of Polly Klaas that brought three strikes into being.

The unmistakable guilt of Davis made it possible for myself and thousands of others to receive life sentences for nonviolent crimes. Would I like to see him die? Sure I would. But as a jailhouse lawyer and inside activist, the current model of justice is too imperfect even for a dog like him.

There is no way to guarantee the innocent will not be killed alongside the guilty. Vengeance has no place in the justice system.

Arguably, hanging horse thieves, cattle rustlers and outlaws in the mid-19th Century helped civilize a young nation. That is, if anyone can venture to say the angry mob in front of the courthouse on the day the jury convicted Peterson was representative of civilized society.

Justice is not only flawed, but automatic appeals afforded all inmates sentenced to death to take decades. With 640 inmates condemned to die in California, only 10 have been executed since 1976. Rather than even consider abolishing capital punishment, the most recent debate is "where" to build a larger death row.

Still, the case against Peterson is entirely circumstantial. Even the bible says you need two eyewitnesses in order to justify execution. If the justice system could guarantee a 99 percent rate of absolute certainty — a standard of excellence, in my opinion, impossible to achieve — that still means six or seven death row inmates in San Quentin are innocent.

Moreover, it costs roughly \$2 million to try a capital case in California, six times higher than a noncapital trial. Do the math, it simply doesn't add up.

It's time for this country to abandon its infatuation with death. The proper punishment for murder is life, not lethal injection.

If Peterson truly killed Laci and Conner, then does he deserve to die? Not if the innocent are also executed under this same flawed system of justice. If you hate Peterson so much, let him rot in prison for the rest of his

# Under Lock & Key

## News from Prisons & Prisoners

life.

Take it from someone who knows, life is worse than death. Abolish the death penalty, it's an abomination.

—a California prisoner, December 2004

MIM responds: We stand with this prisoner in opposition to the imperialist death penalty. The Amerikan system is far too flawed to be deciding who deserves prison much less who deserves death. But we also are clear that revolutionaries can not afford to be pacifists. When the proletariat takes power, the imperialist criminal injustice system will be abolished. But there will be murdering imperialists who will face the penalty of death for their crimes, a blood debt that the people will demand.

## Spreading AIDS in prison?

We in Texas [are no longer] allowed to have sexually explicit material to get us through these months of incarceration. The significance of this policy will be telling. Prisons are already infested with weaknesses of the flesh in the form of homosexuality. Now with no self-gratifying material being allowed, homosexuality will rise horrifyingly, which also means HIV and AIDS will be very much in evidence. It's bad comrades and getting worse. What can be done to stop this criminal genocide?

I am absolutely convinced there is complicity between the corrections institution and the medical branches. I have first hand knowledge that HIV infections are being transmitted among the prison population by way of unprotected sexual intercourse. Known homosexual HIV carriers are being housed with non-infected prisoners and soliciting and/or engaging in unprotected sex with non-infected prisoners. The majority of non-infected prisoners that are vulnerable are short-timers. Many of these short-term prisoners are bi-sexual, which means that once they are released back to our communities they bring with them infections that ultimately place unexpected females at risk of exposure. This is compounded by ignorance, promiscuity, and high sexual activity.

There are obviously medical records that are available in prison hospitals that would make these HIV carriers easily identifiable. The prison administrators are aware of this yet all operations concerning the interaction of prisoners condone, promote, and encourage homosexual activity. There's no major concern because most of these prisoners being infected are from poor communities and upon their release are for certain going back to poor communities.

The only best thing for organizations like MIM to do is promote segregation of these HIV-infected homosexuals and publishing warning bulletins system-wide. I call on all the vanguard revolutionary organizations to sound off your drums about this conspiracy to kill us all off. This is germ warfare.

— A Texas prisoner, May 2004

MIM responds: The transmission of HIV and other diseases like hepatitis within prisons is a huge problem, and it does create

epidemic effects throughout the oppressed-nation communities of the prisoners. And the prison system and its administrators must be held accountable for this. Further, MIM objects to banning pornography in prison, as censorship of anything leads to political censorship in this system.

However, we do not think banning pornography or sex between men are the real problems here. Nor do we see homosexuality as a "weakness of the flesh" any more than is heterosexuality. And segregating prisoners based on HIV status alone is not necessary or fair to HIV-positive prisoners who do not commit rapes.

The problems are rape in general, lack of education needed to understand and prevent transmission, and lack of the preventive health care needed to protect people from infection. The prison administrators, along with the other institutions of imperialism, are largely responsible for all of these problems. If rape were effectively prohibited instead of condoned or promoted, and if health care and sex education were widespread rights and practices — and if the unjust imprisonment of large proportions of oppressed nation communities was not the law of the land — then the transmission of HIV and other diseases through the prison population would not be such an epidemic problem. Of course, the prison administration should be held accountable for the effects of their actions.

## MIM Notes opens eyes

Acknowledging the receipt of MIM Notes May and June, Thank you.

Your underground manifesto keeps me and others very well informed of the news we do not get on the media. It's amazing to me how some of these prisoners will become frightened when you offer to let them read your paper. As soon as they see communist they piss on themselves and won't confabulate any further on subject matter. Your productions are a rude awakening for some of us at the same time for those that do read it cause they have never come across information like you offer. Then there are some who become hungry for the knowledge that is in your productions. It opens a lot of doors for us.

Most of us in here and in the free world would not know that the terrorism at Abu Ghraib has been and is practiced in u.s. prisons daily. Those people will attempt to justify those prison guards with discharges against those prison guards, court proceedings, reprimands but it is only a subterfuge of the double standard that begins at the top of the food chain perpetuated by the imperialist elites. We all should know this but a large percentage of us can feel good about themselves by selling their souls for a piece of the pie, the pie that is responsible in the last 500 years, for more death, destruction, all of white males a falling civilization. They are not civilized. The barbarian has a nefarious brain which created the reflex killer. The reflex killer will smash you if you become a serious threat to it. It wreaks of death.

- a California prisoner, July 2004

## Officer tries to stop education program

At Ironwood State Prison they have an experimental college program where they pay for your books and tuition. But there are some standards you have to meet to be eligible, which are not bad. There is limited space for free books and tuition. So you are able to pursue your degree on your own, all you have to pay for is your books and they'll pay for your tuition.

Well there is a Corrections Officer (CO) who does not agree with the program. So he writes to the local newspapers saying it's not fair that convicts get a free education and he has to pay. He says rapist and murderers don't deserve a college education. So every time an inmate graduates he will lead a protest and picket outside of the community college and prison. This C.O. has been caught throwing away inmates' outgoing mail, searching inmates' cells and throwing all their belongings all over the place. He gets disciplined by his superior but nothing happens.

They are also making us limit our property

## MIM on Prisons & Prisoners

MIM seeks to build public opinion against Amerika's criminal injustice system, and to eventually replace the bourgeois injustice system with proletarian justice. The bourgeois injustice system imprisons and executes a disproportionately large and growing number of oppressed people while letting the biggest mass murderers — the imperialists and their lackeys — roam free. Imperialism is not opposed to murder or theft, it only insists that these crimes be committed in the interests of the bourgeoisie.

"All U.S. citizens are criminals — accomplices and accessories to the crimes of U.S. oppression globally until the day U.S. imperialism is overcome. All U.S. citizens should start from the point of view that they are reforming criminals."

MIM does not advocate that all prisoners go free today; we have a more effective program for fighting crime as was demonstrated in China prior to the restoration of capitalism there in 1976. We say that all prisoners are political prisoners because under the dictatorship of the bourgeoisie, all imprisonment is substantively political. It is our responsibility to exert revolutionary leadership and conduct political agitation and organization among prisoners — whose material conditions make them an overwhelmingly revolutionary group. Some prisoners should and will work on self-criticism under a future dictatorship of the proletariat in those cases in which prisoners really did do something wrong by proletarian standards.

to a certain amount. They are including state issued clothes and sleeping materials such as blankets and sheets. It may not sound like much but it is to an inmate who has to have cosmetics, clothes, food, and for those of us who are currently appealing our conviction.

- a California prisoner, January 2005

MIM adds: Most prisons have cut educational programs to virtually nothing leaving organizations like MIM as the only providers of educational materials and classes for prisoners. Prisons don't even pretend to be attempting rehabilitation, instead putting their time and energy into censoring literature and mail, and trying to shut down the few education programs that still exist. MIM needs support in the form of books and funds to help expand our Books for Prisoners program, and legal help to fight the constant censorship.

## Fighting gang validation in Cali.

As far as my [gang] validations are concerned, well I have yet to hear back from anyone. It's been four months since the process began. I should've heard something by now. What I believe they're trying to do is leave it hanging over my head so that when I go in front of the committee they can hold me back.

If anyone finds their self in this situation, what they can do is what I'm doing myself. They can request an "Olsen Review" which we are entitled to twice a year. Once your request has been granted, ask your counselor to show you your 128 B2 form. This should say if you're validated or not. If you are, it will show you all the pieces of evidence they used against you. You are entitled to a copy of this form.

The importance of this for those of us who have received an indeterminate SHU for "program failure" and are being considered for "gang validation" as well is to not let these pigs hold you back here any longer than you have to be. Once you know you're validated you can start fighting your case. And not have to wait until your indeterminate SHU for program failure is up.

- a California prisoner, January 2005

MIM adds: the California prison system is notorious for labeling political activist prisoners as gang members. This gang validation can be achieved using secret evidence, informants who are given every incentive to make up information, tattoos, and information about who a prisoner speaks to in the library or yard. It is very difficult to challenge a gang validation, which can result in an indeterminate sentence to California's prison control units (the SHU).

## Prisoner legal union

I am founder of a grassroots legal Union for prisoners by prisoners (Legal Eagles). Us avid law library attendees recognize the need for prisoners to have meaningful access to forms and courts. Thousands of inmates simply cannot gain access to limited law library space.

We seek mobility in the prison and to offer speakers on prison policy to new inmates on how to 602, and how to get indigent services and legal forms without hassle. We want to offer law books for borrow so inmates can study overnight in their cells, not just 2 hours a month in the law library. Possibly in the future we want to obtain our own copy machine to avoid censorship.

We are in California Medical Facility (CMF) and 50% of us are HIV/AIDS prisoners. I am one trying to make change for good before I die, leave my mark. Being HIV positive, I have what equates to a death sentence.

New rules here mean that inmates cannot get books unless they pay for them themselves. Otherwise it will count as a quarterly package! It's come down to getting a law book to help and do without goods or get food and hygiene products and stay in prison without recourse. I am new at starting a prison legal union so any start up info or suggestions are welcome. So far prison officials are not receptive to our ideas.

We seek start up grants and accounts to pay 10 cents an hour to Legal Eagles to help inmates. Unfortunately inmates don't do anything if there is not anything in it for them. The prison pays 8 cents an hour to most of its inmate employees.

- a California prisoner at CMF, December 2004

MIM responds: We welcome prisoners taking up legal work on behalf of others. Most prisoners do not have the finances to afford legal counsel, so they become jailhouse lawyers, teaching themselves what is necessary to fight their own legal battles. MIM set up a Prisoners Legal Clinic (PLC) several years ago, at the urging of some of our comrades behind bars. Prisoners working with the PLC put together legal briefs and guides for others. Some of these are printed in MIM Notes, others are distributed to prisoners as needed. We look forward to working with the Legal Eagles to expand our legal work behind bars.

## LA County beating prisoners

It has been a while since I was able to write you, I was transferred to LA County jail to go to court. I wasn't able to take any of my property with me, and I don't know your

address by heart, but now I'm back.

I went to court only to get ten years added, they didn't take any time off, so now I have 75 years to life. The pigs in LA County are beating prisoners some place in that county all day every day. It's a war zone down there, they put the cuffs on you and take you some place and beat you. All of them, even the captain will beat you. They put gangs in units with other gangs that these young guys call their enemy, and if they jump you the pigs will put you right back in there. The prisoners don't know that the real enemy is the pigs. I have old gang stuff all over my body so when they see that they get upset. Someone got stabbed and the pigs put it on me, I even been jumped by the pigs a few times.

- a California prisoner, December 2004

## Are We Safe

by a New York Prisoner,  
August 2004

None of us are ever safe:

As long as we abandon truth's way,  
To hide behind falsehoods deceptive shadow.  
As long as we extinguish the light of reason,  
To grope in darkness with fear's ill rational face.

As long as we choose to stand before the altar of our appetites,  
Rather than sit at the table of our need.

As long as we elect madmen and thieves to govern

Our lives, with a smile and promises of better days to come;

Never will we be led by the upright, prudent and strong.

As long as we reject the evidence of our eyes and ears,

Because we fear to know and understand what obligation and sacrifice reveal to us-

We will always be led astray.

As long as we continue to barter our dreams for

The whines of excuses, pawn our hopes for fashions

Trendy ideals-our faith will always fail us.

As long as we would rather blindly believe in anything,

Than intelligently think for once in our lives-Our masters will be cruel and many, and

Being safe will be our greatest self-deception.

**MIM:** This piece speaks strongly in these days/years of the War on Terrorism. On September 11th, 2001 MIM came out with a special issue of MIM Notes with the statement entitled "We mourn those who died in attacks on the World Trade Center. We strengthen our resolve to cast off war-hungry capitalism?" Since then, we've continued to expose amerikan war-mongering as the world's greatest danger, not the answer to terrorism that it claims to be.

## Join the fight against the injustice system

While we fight to end the criminal injustice system MIM engages in reformist battles to improve the lives of prisoners. Below are some of the campaigns we are currently waging, and ways people behind the bars and on the outside can get involved. More info can be found on our prison web site: <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/agitation/prisons>

**Stop Censorship in Prison:** Prisons frequently censor books, newspapers and magazines coming from MIM's books for prisoners program. We need help from lawyers, paralegals and jailhouse lawyers to fight this censorship.

**Books for Prisoners:** This program focuses on political education of prisoners. Send donations of books and money for our Books for Prisoners program.

**End the Three Strikes laws:** This campaign is actively fighting the repressive California laws, but similar laws exist in other states. Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Send articles and information on three strike laws.

**Shut Down the Control Units:** Across the country there are a growing number of prison control units. These are permanently designated prisons or cells in prisons that lock prisoners up in solitary or small group confinement for 22 or more hours a day with no congregate dining, exercise or other services, and virtually no programs for prisoners. Prisoners are placed in control units for extended periods of time. These units cause both mental and physical problems for prisoners.

Write to us to request a petition to collect signatures. Get your organization to sign the statement demanding control units be shut down. Send us information about where there are control units in your state. Include the names of the prisons as well as the number of control unit beds/cells in each prison if that is known. Send us anti-control unit artwork.

**MIM's Re-Lease on Life Program:** This program provides support for our comrades who have been recently released from the prison system, to help them meet their basic needs and also continue with their revolutionary organizing on the outside. We need funds, housing, and job resources. We also need prisoner's input on the following survey questions:

1. What are the biggest challenges you face being released from prison?
2. How can these problems be addressed?
3. What are the important elements of a successful release program?

## Facts on US imprisonment

The facts about imprisonment in the United States are that the United States has been the world's leading prison-state per capita for the last 25 years, with a brief exception during Boris Yeltsin's declaration of a state of emergency.(1)

That means that while Reagan was talking about a Soviet "evil empire" he was the head of a state that imprisoned more people per capita. In supposedly "hard-line" Bulgaria of the Soviet bloc of the 1980s, the imprisonment rate was less than half that of the United States.(2,3)

To find a comparison with U.S. imprisonment of Black people, there is no statistic in any country that compares including apartheid South Africa of the era before Mandela was president. The last situation remotely comparable to the situation today was under Stalin during war time. The majority of prisoners are non-violent offenders(4) and the U.S. Government now holds about a half million more prisoners than China; even though China is four times our population.(5)

The rednecks tell MIM that we live in a "free country." They live in an Orwellian 1984 situation where freedom is imprisonment.

Notes: 1. Marc Mauer, "Americans Behind Bars: The International Use of Incarceration 1993," The Prison Sentencing Project, 918 F. St. NW, Suite 501, Washington, DC 20004 (202) 628-0871 Reference: SRI: R8965-2, 1994

2. Ibid., 1992 report.

3. United Nations Development Programme, "Human Development Report 1994,:" Oxford University Press, p. 186.

4. Figure of 51.2 percent for state prisoners there for non-violent offenses. Abstract of the United States 1993, p. 211.

5. Atlantic Monthly December, 1998.

# Blade needs more clarity on who make up the masses

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fantasy, but the movie can't be considered in isolation from the real world.

In a less supernatural version of "Blade: Trinity" made in a socialist people's republic, vampires, Familiars and blood "donors" would be the same species: humyn. Instead of being non-humyn nationalities, the vampires are fascists with cybernetic implants (they had to invent their superiority). They are composed of capitalists and bourgeois workers, and attack lumpen-proletarians and undocumented workers. Blade doesn't need any serum in the literal sense; what the original "Blade: Trinity" calls "serum," the new version of the movie calls doses of "correct ideas." Among other things, these changes to the original "Blade: Trinity" would reflect the reality that the majority of the u.s. population is neither exploited, nor being oppressed by a nation inside or outside u.s. borders.

One of the better redeeming elements of "Blade: Trinity," keeping it the way it is, is that the movie goes out of its way to ponder Blade's future, and this future seems to lie near the revolutionary struggle. The Nightstalkers themselves don't think Blade is the kind of persyn who will go back to their desk or office job and be a well-behaved citizen after the war with the vampires is over. Blade defeated the Reapers in "Blade II" (2002). Movie viewers know Blade will probably defeat the vampires at the end of "Blade: Trinity." So, what conflicts will Blade focus on next, with the vampire nation's oppression overthrown? Blade himself tells Sommerfield's daughter, Zoe (Haili Page), that the world isn't "nice." (Although, this is in response to a question about why Blade needs to take his serum, which suppresses his thirst for blood.) At the beginning of the movie, a Familiar tricks Blade into killing him, setting him up for pig repression. Abraham encourages Blade to be more careful. Blade replies that he didn't know this was a "popularity contest."

The point about revolution not being a popularity contest is interesting from the viewpoint of MIM's anti-Menshevik line. Unfortunately, Blade's comment has the context of endless violence, which is extremely repetitive in "Blade: Trinity" to the point of monotony. True, the vampires are killing people. But in the real world, so is imperialism, and at this point, MIM advocates only protracted legal struggle in the united States with the exception of some First Nations' struggles. Blade could get a camera and film vampires (even if invisible to the camera) preying on humyns, and distribute that undeniably bizarre and shocking video in order to change public opinion, but he doesn't. The real world is not as simple as the "Blade" world—for one, more is involved in creating public opinion than simply showing photos of imperialism's dead and dying victims—but the "Blade" world is

that simple, and Blade's actions still do not make sense.

To its credit, "Blade: Trinity" seems to recognize that its own violent imagery and content are unnecessary. Hannibal remarks that Blade might want to get therapy after Blade, without blinking, lets a Familiar fall from a building rooftop onto the street. However, not only does Hannibal pay too much attention to a particular instance of Blade's violent strategy, rather than Blade's strategy itself, he confuses a political mistake with mental illness and supports the therapeutic culture.

"Blade: Trinity" is purposefully over the top in its violence, even for a movie based on comics, and pokes fun at itself. There is a lot of phallic imagery—for example, Blade's standing erect, the camera focusing on his crotch, after he takes his serum at the police station—and there is the whole deliberately Freudian vagina dentata thing between Hannibal and the vampire womyn Danica Talos (Parker Posey). Another Nightstalker scientist (Patton Oswalt) calls Abigail a "hottie," which is the movie commenting on its own sex appeal.

Some reviewers will say that the violence in "Blade: Trinity" is gratuitous or exists for its own titillation, especially when a strong, but expectedly sexy, "hottie" metes out much of the violence. "Blade: Trinity" is obviously a popcorn movie. The interesting question is, what are the ideological effects of the gratuitous action violence.

On the one hand, the violence is related to the theme that full vampires are automatically deserving of lethal violence, while half-vampires and former vampires are not. Importantly, former vampire Hannibal has to be at least part-humyn to be part of the Nightstalkers. "Blade: Trinity" has almost no concept of class or nation traitor. When the war is with the vampires, it is impossible to work with any full vampire—full in a literally genetic sense.

At one point, Blade, in a moment of bravado, tells Drake (Dominic Purcell) that he was "born ready" to die, which may be a reference to Blade's desire for revenge against the vampires who bit and killed Blade's mother, and caused Blade to be born as a humyn-vampire hybrid. What would otherwise be just a metaphysical idea about how one hybrid had always had an inclination to be revolutionary is put in the service of an exaggerated bloodline theory.(3) The idea in "Blade: Trinity" is that being humyn, without any qualification other than non-Familiar, is the best; being a vampire is just plain evil. The sentiment is that humyn-vampire hybrids are naturally undesirable. In part, Blade's part-vampire ancestry motivates him to oppose the vampires. Roughly, this is like a biracial, part-"Caucasian" persyn wanting the deaths of all light-skinned people as revenge for having to suffer social exclusion as a biracial persyn. Of course,

there are good reasons to view Euro-Amerikans as predators, but these do not translate into a bloodline theory, which both the movie and Blade seem to uphold.

On the other hand, the movie effectively uses violence in a way that suggests that Blade is a revolutionary. This reviewer would agree that Blade is a revolutionary within the fantasy "Blade" movie world and all its incredible constraints, including even homeless persyns' being unable to testify to the existence of vampires and being unable to work with the Nightstalkers, but "Blade: Trinity" tends to make the mistake of equating armed action with being a revolutionary. When dazed and asked by the police to name the President, Blade replies, an "asshole"—most Demokrats will laugh, and most Republikans will feel insulted, which makes Blade at least a likely Demokrat so far. (Hannibal says that Drake woke up in Iraq six months ago, "pissed.") Would the Nightstalkers still consider Blade to be discontented with more than the vampires—maybe even the whole imperialist system—if he weren't so violent? This isn't clear. It's as if Blade's discontent were defined by his violence since the movie doesn't get into any other aspect of Blade's strategy. Without his violence, he could be just a Demokrat or an "independent." "Blade: Trinity" doesn't get into what Blade is thinking other than to reveal his disgust with the warehouse blood farm, for example. Although the Nightstalkers briefly discuss Blade's future, it doesn't show what Blade plans to do after he defeats the vampires. "Blade: Trinity" may be the last movie of the "Blade" series, so the lack of sustained interest in Blade's post-vampire future is unsurprising. However, "Blade: Trinity" could have elaborated on what Blade was thinking when he reacted viscerally to the sight of the homeless persyns at the blood farming facility. In the first "Blade" movie (1998), Abraham Whistler reveals that the early Blade, his thirst for blood uncontrolled, fed off of homeless persyns.

Finally, not only does "Blade: Trinity" conflate class origin and class position, it does so in a way that supports genocide as an option for progressives. The vampires have no "final solution" for the humyns by the Nightstalkers' own admission, but the Nightstalkers themselves have a genocidal plan for the vampires: a deadly virus that is specific to vampires biologically. (Interestingly, Sommerfield mentions the possibility that "hybrid" humyn-vampire Blade could be wiped out along with the rest of the vampires. But Sommerfield's biological weapon is supposedly 100% effective, killing 100% of vampires, 0% of humyns.) What is disturbing is that "Blade: Trinity" makes ideas of "race"-specific viruses sound already scientific and then proposes that such viruses be used against unquestionably evil enemies—and without distinguishing between enemies of the

u.s. white nation, and enemies of oppressed nations inside and outside the united Snakes. However, genocide has typically been a tactic of imperialists and other capitalists facing their own doom.

"Blade: Trinity" is a marginal improvement over the previous "Blade" movies in introducing more vampire hunters and pondering Blade's post-vampire political future, but these Nightstalkers are mainly confined to bourgeois Euro-Amerikans, who are supposedly indispensable and work with Blade as equals despite Blade's petty objections. Identity and line are two separate issues for MIM, but the only Nightstalker whose history is discussed is Abigail, Abraham's daughter; how we got to the point where there are mainly Euro-Amerikan oppressors in the Nightstalkers, but no lumpen-proletarians, is not important to "Blade: Trinity." There is nothing wrong with the depiction of Euro-Amerikans as being revolutionaries by itself, but Blade and the Nightstalkers do nothing to work with those whom the vampires oppress the most, in the struggle against the vampires. At the same time, while portraying Euro-Amerikans as lone heroes and saviors of the masses, "Blade: Trinity" does almost nothing to oppose the theory that equates class position with class origin, which allows it to suggest genocide as a way to defeat supposedly inherently evil enemies. For that matter, the idea that the vampiric thirst for blood can be turned on and off with some kind of switch has no correspondence with any kind of oppression in the real world. For the sake of having an alternative, we can refer to the "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" character Angel, who is friendly to that show's vampire hunters, but still drinks blood of some kind.

Notes:

1. MC5, "Gory thriller needs Maoist interpretation," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/movies/review.php?f=long/blade.txt>
2. MC5, "Again on the subject of the 'masses' in the imperialist countries" (April 19, 2001); <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/onmasses01.html>
3. "Resolutions on Cross-Cultural Breeding," <http://www.etext.org/Politics/MIM/wim/cong/crosscultural2004.html>

